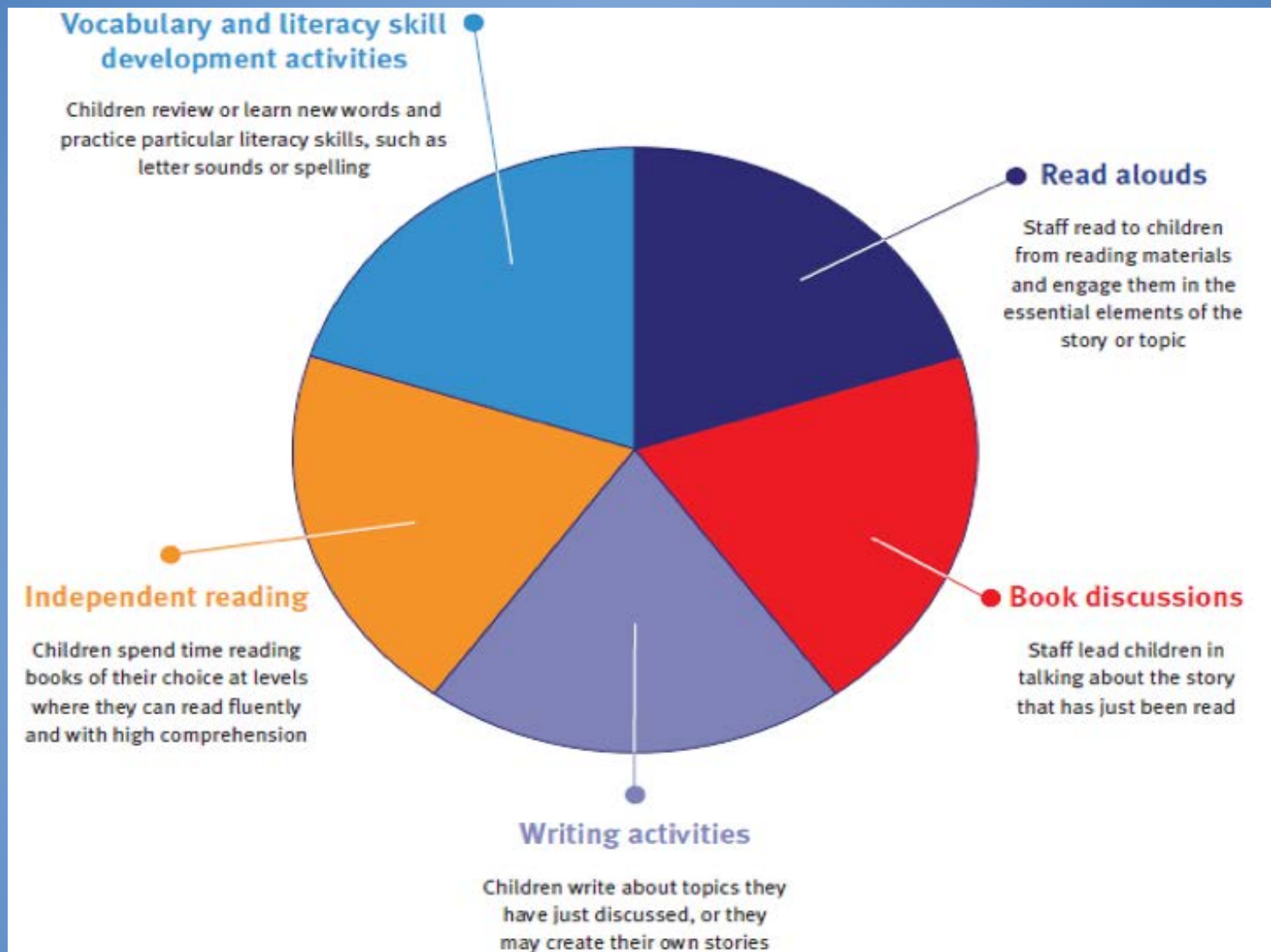


What Good Literacy Practices Look Like in Out of School Time

United Way of Central Iowa's OST Literacy Initiative





Build in the 5 Components of Balanced Literacy

Read Alouds are the Starting Point

- Comprehension Counts - monitor student reading comprehension during read alouds and independent reading
- It's more than just reading a book or having silent reading time

Continue to add elements of balanced literacy as staff become proficient...

...Always Keeping in Mind an Awareness of Grade Level Standards and Age Appropriate Activities

K-1	2-3	4-5	6-8
Phonics, Phonemic Awareness, Sight Words, Simple Story Elements	Story Structure, Vocabulary, Comprehension, Connections	Story Elements, Academic Vocabulary, Comprehension Strategies	Reading for Comprehension and Deeper Meaning, Complex Connections

The Basics

- Materials
- Environment
- Staff Commitment
- Training
- Schedule

Site Readiness Evaluation

Site: _____

1. Does the site have a Literacy curriculum? ☐ YES ☐ NO

IF YES – Curriculum is:

- ☐ modern/current ☐ engaging ☐ User friendly for non-trained staff
☐ complete – all materials included ☐ includes all elements of balanced literacy

2. Materials available at site:

- ☐ age appropriate books/magazines – adequate supply for enrollment
☐ basic writing supplies (pens, pencils, erasers) – adequate supply for enrollment
☐ variety of paper (sizes, lined, unlined) – adequate supply for enrollment
☐ art supplies (crayons, markers, colored pencils) – adequate supply for enrollment
☐ other supplies (glue, scissors) – adequate supply for enrollment

3. Technology available at site:

- ☐ internet/wifi – working and available to staff and students
☐ computers – working and available to staff and students How many _____
☐ tablets (ipad, etc.)– working and available to staff and students: How many _____
☐ copier/printer/scanner – working and available to staff
☐ Technical support available
☐ Televisions – working and available to staff and students: How many _____
☐ Educational Video Games – working and available to staff and students

4. Site Staff:

- ☐ Lead teacher: Name _____
☐ Adequate number for enrollment: Ratio ____ / ____
☐ Experience in OST environment: number of years average _____
☐ Experience with literacy techniques: number of years average _____
☐ Education: HS ____/____ SOME COLLEGE ____/____ DEGREES ____/____
☐ Enthusiastic/committed to the Literacy Initiative: ____ / ____

Materials Necessary for Literacy in OST

- Age Appropriate Independent Reading Materials:
 - Books, Magazines, or other texts
 - Fiction and Nonfiction, variety of genres
- Books appropriate for Whole Group Read Alouds
- Writing Materials
 - Pencils, Markers, Crayons
 - Paper
 - Scissors, Glue

Literacy Environment

- Space for youth to gather as a group
- Independent work space
- Comfortable places for independent reading
- Print Rich Environment:
 - Posters
 - Bright, welcoming space
 - Clean and Organized

Staff Commitment and Dedication is Necessary

Creating the best possible literacy environment may mean changing how things have traditionally been done. Staff need to be on board and willing to implement new practices.

Training

- Lead Teacher
- Literacy Coach
- PBS Learning Media:
Free Literacy
Professional
Development
Courses
- Ongoing
- Follow Up
- Applicable to
Program

Staff Commitment and Dedication

- Consider a Lead Teacher
 - plans read alouds and activities
 - implements plans with additional staff support
- Characteristics of a Lead Teacher
 - dedicated
 - consistent
 - willing to try new things
 - demonstrates group management skills
 - higher education

Schedule Time for Literacy

-
- Time for Staff to Plan
- Time for Reading
- Time for Literacy Activities

Schedule Time for Literacy

- Early in Programming Day to Maximize Impact
- Developmentally Appropriate Amount of Time
- Stick to the Same Routine but Vary the Activity
- Allow time for staff to get comfortable with the strategies then encourage them to expand and make it their own

Take Advantage of Available Resources

-
- PBS Kids
- PBS Learning Media
- Public Library
- ReadingRockets.org

Sample Literacy Schedule

Mondays

3:10-3:30 Snack

3:30-4:00 Read Aloud and
Book Discussion

4:00-4:20 Writing Activity

Tuesdays

3:10-3:30 Snack

3:30-4:00 Independent
Reading

4:00-4:20 Vocabulary/Skill
Development Activities

Great Books for Reading Aloud

Use these titles as a starting point for getting great read alouds into OST programs

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carl	Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems	The Penderwicks by Jeann Birdsall
Are You My Mother by P. D. Eastman	My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannet
Strega Nona by Tommie dePaola	Maniac McGee by Jerry Spinelli

Useful Links

OST Initiative Wiki:

<http://ostinitiative.wikispaces.com/>

Literacy Activities for Youth:

<http://www.fcrr.org/for-educators/sca.asp>